

Photographic Log, CES Environmental Services Facility Site Visit, Houston, Texas

The following photographs were taken and described by Terry Andrews, Remediation Division, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), while visiting the CES Environmental Services (CES) facility in Houston, Texas on August 2, 2014, from approximately 8:30 to 11:20 AM and August 12, 2014, from approximately 1:30 to 2:30 PM. The goal of both of these site visits was to investigate the source of the oily water release that had been reported on Kingsbury Ave on 8/1/2014.

On August 2, 2014, Mr. Andrews was accompanied during the visit by Faith Cotton, TCEQ Region 12 Emergency Response. Tom Waller, of Weston Solutions, Inc., accompanied the TCEQ personnel from 10:30 to approximately 11:20 AM.

On August 12, 2014, Mr. Andrews was accompanied by Walter Rodriguez and Mike Davis, TCEQ Region 12 Emergency Response.

During both of these visits, there was a light wind blowing out of the north, with mostly clear skies.



Photograph #1, August 2, 2014 – View looking north at the stormwater ponded in the southwest corner of the site. Light Non Aqueous Phase Liquid (LNAPL) that consists of a black oil-like material and a reddish emulsion-like material is floating on the surface of the stormwater. It looks like the light wind out of the north has pushed the LNAPL to the southern edge of the ponded stormwater. There are numerous potential sources of hydrocarbons in the area (such as oily stained concrete, oil stained debris, and oily waste containers).



Photograph #2, August 2, 2014 - View looking west at the southern edge of the ponded stormwater in the southwest corner of the site. Note the LNAPL that is floating on the stormwater.



Photograph #3, August 2, 2014 - View looking north along the top of the clay berm that was built by the Bankruptcy Trustee in March 2014. The stormwater on the left side of the berm appears to have a layer of LNAPL/emulsion floating on it.



Photograph #4, August 2, 2014 – View looking southwest down the drainage ditch that is filled with stormwater with a layer of LNAPL/emulsion floating on it. The drainage ditch drains south towards Kingsbury Avenue and the earthen berm that was built by the City of Houston on 8/1/2014. Note the red color of the emulsion and the black color of the oil. Tom Waller, of Weston Solutions, Inc., is looking at the ditch.



Photograph #5, August 2, 2014 – View looking east at a tank trailer that is parked along the North Tank Farm and near the ponded stormwater in the southwest corner of the site. The tank trailer contents are unknown. A small pipe and valve located just below the hand painted “4” was releasing a small trickle of black oil-like material onto the pavement and the ponded water. I closed this valve and stopped the trickle of oil-like material. The oil-like material resembles the LNAPL that we see floating on the ponded stormwater.



Photograph #6, August 2, 2014 – View looking south at the ponded water in the southwest corner of the site. The northern edge of the ponded water is located approximately 75 feet south of the gate located at the end of Wayland Street. To the left in the photograph is the Bay Wash Out building and the North and South Tank Farms.



Photograph #7, August 2, 2014 - View looking northeast at one of the two vacuum boxes that are located within the Bay Wash Out building, which is located just north of the North Tank Farm. Both of these vacuum boxes appear to be leaking from the bottom of the containers and are emitting a strong phenolic odor. The floor is littered with absorbent material, some of which appears to be holding spilled or leaked waste. Soil berms have been placed at the large overhead door openings to this building. Part of one of the berms has been removed on the west side of the building.



Photograph #8, August 2, 2014 – View looking north at the South Tank Farm area. Note the large frac tanks and a large pile of unknown material in front of the frac tanks. Also note the large aboveground storage tanks and totes in the South Tank Farm Area. The totes are reportedly empty but the aboveground storage tanks reportedly contain waste.



Photograph #9, August 2, 2014 - View looking east at the ponded stormwater, miscellaneous containers, and piles of debris located in the area south of the South Tank Farm. Note the residential properties in the background.



Photograph #10, August 2, 2014 - View looking south at a pile of debris located in the south part of the site. The debris was reportedly dumped out of the roll-off boxes during the theft of the roll-off boxes that reportedly occurred in March 2014. The plastic sheeting cover appeared to be in very bad shape.



Photograph #11, August 2, 2014 - View of soil that has been placed in a large opening of the largest secondary containment area of the North Tank Farm Area.



Photograph #12, August 2, 2014 - View looking south at the inside of the largest secondary containment area of the North Tank Farm. This area appears to contain a thick layer of oil. Note the soil pile that was placed at the secondary containment opening.



Photograph #13, August 2, 2014 - View looking north at another of the secondary containment areas within the North Tank Farm. Note the soil pile that was placed at the secondary containment opening.



Photograph #14, August 2, 2014 - View looking west at the North Tank Farm. The soil that was placed at the opening of another of the secondary containment areas appears to be washed away.



Photograph #15, August 2, 2014 - View looking southwest at the inside of a secondary containment area of the North Tank Farm. Note the soil pile that was placed at the secondary containment opening has been washed away.



Photograph #16, August 12, 2014 - View looking south at the vacuum boxes and roll-offs staged along the western fence of the main facility. The gate in the foreground (with soil berm) is located at the end of Wayland Street.



Photograph #17, August 2, 2014 - View looking south at vacuum box 617 that is staged near the perimeter fence (west of the North Tank Farm). This box had been leaking from the bottom of the container. A soil berm has been placed around the vacuum box.



Photograph #18, August 2, 2014 - View looking west at the front of vacuum box 617. The box appears to be leaking liquid from the area near the hook in the center of the photograph.



Photograph #19, August 2, 2014 - View looking south at one of the open top containers that has been temporarily covered with plastic sheeting. The container is located in the northern half of the facility. The Bay Wash Out building is in the background to the right. The east perimeter fence line is located in the undergrowth and trees. The white object that is visible in the trees and above the roll-off is the side of a neighboring house.



Photograph #20, August 2, 2014- View looking west at the south end of the large warehouse building. A dead bird on the pavement can be seen in the foreground. Visible behind the bird is another open top container that has been temporarily covered with plastic sheeting and a frac tank.



Photograph #21, August 2, 2014 - View looking north at the north end of the site. The building on the right side is the office building. The building in the middle is the Sample Receiving building. The building to the left is the warehouse building. Note the stormwater ponded on the concrete and the soil berm that has been placed along the front gate (between the office and sampling receiving buildings). Also, note three frac tanks parked near the warehouse. The east perimeter fence is located near the tree line in the far right side of the photograph.



Photograph #22, August 2, 2014 - View looking east at four drums sitting on a pallet located near the eastern perimeter fence in the north part of the facility. The lid for one of the drums appears to be ajar and has leaked an oily material onto the pavement. The perimeter fence and the side of a residential home is in the background.



Photograph #23, August 2, 2014 - View looking west at the south end of the large warehouse building. Note the three frac tanks and the open top container (covered with plastic sheeting). The ponded water appears to have an oil scummy sheen.



Photograph #24, August 2, 2014 - View looking west the large warehouse building. A soil berm has been placed at the loading bay door because the loading bay contains oil that is pooled within the loading bay.



Photograph #25, August 12, 2014 - View looking north inside the large warehouse building. The white open top container in the left side of the photograph contains oil that was recovered from the loading bay. The loading bay that contains oil is lit up with sunlight. Behind it is the tank trailer that was reportedly the source of the oil in the loading bay. The tank trailer reportedly was cut up by thieves (metal recyclers). The facility's wastewater treatment system is visible in the background.



Photograph #26, August 12, 2014 - View looking southwest into one of the former laboratory rooms. The laboratory area is located in the south end of the large warehouse building.



Photograph #27, August 12, 2014 - View looking west at the vacuum boxes that are staged along the western fence in the south part of the main facility. Waste from vacuum box 601 has reportedly been placed in the blue green roll-off box that is located just to the right of vacuum box 601.



Photograph #28, August 12, 2014 - View looking west at vacuum box 601, which reportedly has been emptied. It appears that vacuum box 601 has been moved approximately 15 feet away from where it used to sit near the western perimeter fence (wooden fence in background).